THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) to (e) The issue of encroachment of Indian territory by Nepal in tne Susta-Narsahi along the banks of the river Gandak near Balmikinagar of West Champaran district of Bihar near the Indo-Nepal border has been taken up with the Nepalese authorities.

The boundary in this area was originally demarcated in 1902. However, the encroachment problem has continued as a result of shifting of the Gandak river channels. Boundary identification work is currently being jointly undertaken under the guidance of the Joint Technical Level India Nepal Boundary Committee set up in 1981. A programme for joint identification of the boundary in the segment near Balmikinagar was drawn up by the 18th India Nepal Joint Technical Committee meeting. Photogrammitc survey work is likely to be completed during the next field season i.e. December 1997- June 1998. The precise extent of encroachment is also proposed to be determined during the survey.

[English]

Treatment for T.B. Patients

3375. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY :
SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Hindustan Times dated July 8, 1997 under caption "Hospital's austerity measures costs tuberculosis patients dear";

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that the Rajan Babu Tuberculosis Hospital, Delhi has stopped the second-line treatment to the T.B. patients whereas such cases are on the rise in the city;

(c) if so, the reasons for stopping the treatment; and

(d) the steps being taken or propose to be taken by the Government for resumption of the treatment to the T.B. patients generally belongs to the poor sections of society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rajan Babu Tuberculosis Hospital is a referral Hospital with only indoor facility. Both first line and second line treatment to the T.B. patients who are admitted in the hospital are being given.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Computerisation of Administration

3376. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken series of measures for computerisation of administration both at Centre and States;

(b) if so, details of the programme launched and arrangement made for imparting training to Government personnel and the progress made in this regard as per latest review;

(c) the details of action plan worked out/proposed for total computerisation of Government administration during the Ninth Plan period and phasing thereof;

(d) whether the computers supplied to various offices and Government organisations are scarcely used; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure optimum use of computer network through trained personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government had launched National Informatics Centre (NIC) Programme to bring in computer culture amongst various Government departments with a view to improve administrative efficiency. NIC has developed a large number of Data Bases and Information Systems for computerisation of administration both at Central and State level. For information exchange at different levels in the Government across the country, NIC has established a nation-wide computer-communication network, called NICNET, having more than 1000 satellite based nodes. NIC conducts a large number of training programmes for the officials of the Central Government, State Governments and District administrations through its Centre located at these levels.

(c) NICNET has been operational for 10 years now and requires major expansior due to growing demand of services in the country. NIC has proposed to upgrade the existing NICNET infrastructure to cater to this demand and extent it below District level in Ninth Plan.

(d) No, Sir. Computers supplied to various officers and Government organisations are being used extensively. Many of these systems are used 10-12 hours a day. Computers have become an integral part of a large number of Government offices. The existing infrastructure needs to be upgraded to meet the growing demand.

(e) NIC has launched a number of new services like E-mail, Internet, EDI and FTP. A large number of Government and Public Sector organisations have started using these services, apart from the data tariff of regular Central Government, State Governments and district administration applications.

These activities put together have generated very high tariff requiring major expansion of NICNET infrastructure. This has been possible through extensive and intensive training provided by NIC.

Corruption Cases

3377. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of corruption dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of civil servants investigated by the Vigilance Department of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare 1995-96;

(b) the number of officers (Gradewise) involved in the above cases;

(c) the number of complaints received for corruption and dishonesty in 1995-96 and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Vigilance initiate action suo moto against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt;

(e) whether the Ministry have made any review of the functioning of powers of the vigilance section under their control; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) As per Vigilance Manual, as a general rule investigation of cases of corruption etc. are to be entrusted to Central Bureau of Investigations for investigation.

(c) During the year 1995-96, 56 complaints were received against Group 'A' officers. During this period 17 Group 'A' officers were charge-sheeted.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) A review of the functioning of the Vigilance set-up is taken up periodically so that the disposal of the cases is monitored effectively. The powers are examined under authority of the disciplinary authority.

LAHDC Act No. 1

3378. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Act No. 1 of 1995 is likely to expire/ lapse on September 3, 1997;

(b) whether the LAHDC functionaries have asked the Union and the State Governments several times to [illegible] the Act to make

(c) if so, the steps taken/propose to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) In terms of Article 357 (2) of Constitution of India as applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, any law made in exercise of power of Legislature of State of Jammu and Kashmir by the Parliament or the President, ceases to have effect on the expiry of period of one year after the proclamation under Article 356 has ceased to operate, unless it is ratified by the State Legislature. Since the President's Rule in Jammu and Kashmir was revoked on 9/10/96, the LAHDC Act, 1995 will cease to be operative from 9/ 10/97, unless ratified by the State Legislature.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) In order to extend the LAHDC Act, 1995, necessary legislation will be introduced in the ensuing session of Jammu and Kashmir Legislature, scheduled to be held in August, 1997. The amendments proposed by the Council are separately being considered by the State Government.

Poverty Alleviation

3379. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the world's two most populous countries, China and India, have striven to reduce poverty while the results are remarkable for China and they are mixed for India;

(b) if so, the reasons for successful achievement of removing poverty in China but not in India; and

(c) the extent to which India is lacking behind China in removing poverty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (c) The percentage of people below the poverty line in India is estimated to decline from 54.88 per cent in 1973-74 to 44.48 per cent in 1983 and then further to 35.97 per cent in 1993-94. These estimates are derived from a poverty criterion based on a minimum level of consumption expenditure which enables people to meet the stipulated calorie norm of 2400 calories per capita per day in rural areas and 2100 calories per capita per day in urban areas out of their food consumption, and certain amount of non-food expenditure like clothing, housing, education, transport etc. Chinese estimates of poverty are generally income based and hence are not